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Graves of three language martyrs traceless

No steps taken to identify graves of Salam, Rafiq, Ohiullah

HELEMUL ALAM

The graves of two of the five officially recognised martyrs of the Language Movement have been lost due to neglect by the authorities concerned.

Language martyrs Abdul Jabbar, Abul Barkat and Safiur Rahman were buried in Azimpur Graveyard and their graves have been preserved. But the graves of Abdus Salam and Rafiq Uddin Ahmed were lost in course of time.

The grave of another martyr, Ohiullah,

an eight- or nine-year-old boy, who was recognised through private initiatives and is awaiting official recognition as a language martyr, is also traceless.

Jabbar's grave, though reserved since 1952 in Azimpur, also remained unidentified till 2002 as the authorities did not take any initiatives to find it.

None of the previous governments felt the necessity to put up a sign or plaque to help visitors know about all the martyrs.

The grave of Salam, who was a peon at a government office, could easily be

preserved, as his brother Abdus Sobahan knew the location. But Sobahan died in 2000 and no-one else now knows the exact location.

"We could not afford to reserve the grave. None of the governments also took any steps to that end," said Abdul Karim, Salam's younger brother.

The grave of Rafiq, who was the first martyr of the movement, remains unidentified since his burial. His parents Abdul Latif, who died in 1962, and Rafiza

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The Daily Star celebrates 18th anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Daily Star yesterday celebrated 18 years of its publication through a programme attended by a galaxy of politicians, academics, artistes, businesspersons, media and civil society members.

The newspaper hosted a reception in the city's Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre sharing the joy of its success with hundreds of well-wishers and patrons on the occasion.

Participation by personalities from home and abroad, including incumbent

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6



Distinguished guests at The Daily Star's 18th anniversary reception held at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre yesterday evening.

2,500 languages threatened with extinction

Reveals Unesco

AFP, Paris

The world has lost Manx in the Isle of Man, Ubykh in Turkey and last year Alaska's last native speaker of Eyak, Marie Smith Jones, died, taking the aboriginal language with her.

Of the 6,900 languages spoken in the world, some 2,500 are endangered, the UN's cultural agency Unesco said Thursday as it released its latest atlas of world languages.

That represents a multi-fold increase from the last atlas compiled in 2001, which listed 900 languages threatened with extinction.

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Mumbai attackers had 320 targets

Reports Guardian

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE, New Delhi

Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) ringleaders had ambitions well beyond Mumbai and had placed India's financial hub in a list of 320 worldwide locations as potential targets for commando-style terror strikes, the Guardian has said in a report published on Thursday.

According to the report, western intelligence agencies that accessed the computer and email account of the LeT's communications chief Zahir Shah found a list of possible targets, only 20 of which were in India.

Two of the November 2008 attack's key planners - Shah and Lashkar's operations chief Zakiur Rehman Lakhvi - are now in police custody in Pakistan.

Analysts say the computer list is more of a statement of intent because Lashkar would need time to set up terrorist cells in so many places.

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Visitors throng fair ahead of 21st Feb

AMENA KHATUN

The Amar Ekushey Boi Mela yesterday witnessed the milling crowd in long queues to pass through police security points to enter the fair compound.

As it was weekend people from all walks of life thronged the Academy premises that spilled into its adjoining areas.

Booksellers of various publishing houses said the fair experienced the highest sale yesterday. The Bangla Academy exceeded a sale of TK 39 lakh on its 19th day this year.

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BGMEA

POSSESSION FOR SALE

BGMEA has started construction of (10+B)-storied BGMEA Bhaban at Chittagong. Some floor space are available at different floors of the proposed BGMEA Bhaban for sale of possession preferably to BGMEA Members and Financial Institution.

Prospectus are available in BGMEA office both at Dhaka and Chittagong. Interested buyers are requested to contact BGMEA office and collect prospectus at a cost of Tk. 500/- (Five Hundred) only.

Secretary General

LAUNCH TRAGEDY
26 passengers still missing

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

A day after launch ML Fahmida Happy Express went down in the Kirtonkhola near Barisal, at least 26 people are still missing.

Hundreds of relatives were seen waiting at the riverbank for missing people. Many of them were searching for their dear ones by boats, trawlers,

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Prayer Timing		
February 21		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-20	5-55
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-30	4-45
Maghrib	6-03	6-07
Esha	7-30	8-00

Source: Islamic Foundation

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